

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: Gordon Bentzen (07) 344-3881
SUB-EDITOR: Bob Devries (07) 278-7209
TREASURER: Jean-Pierre Jacquet (07) 372-4675
Fax Messages (07) 372-8325
LIBRARIAN: Rod Holden (07) 200-9870
CONSULTANT: Don Berrie (079) 75-3537
SUPPORT: Brisbane OS9 Users Group

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Editorial Material:
Gordon Bentzen
8 Odin Street
SUNNYBANK Qld 4109

Library Requests:
Rod Holden
53 Haig Road
LOGANLEA Qld 4131

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER
Newsletter of the National OS9 User Group
Volume 7 Number 9

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen
SUBEDITOR : Bob Devries

TREASURER : Jean-Pierre Jacquet
LIBRARIAN : Rod Holden

SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 Users Group.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Last month I included a listing of members who had already committed support of the Usergroup for yet another year and I requested advice of errors or omissions. Well you guessed it, I did leave out one or two members from the listing - my apologies.

Current membership stands at 44 at the time of writing. We thank you for your continued support. It is no surprise, however, that offers of regular contributions of newsletter articles are few and far between. **Come on guys!** you can do better than this.

In this edition we have included the remainder of the commented source code for "System Utilities" by Ron Lamardo. This is the final part of the utilities presented in the August edition. Those of you who were waiting on the code so that you could type it in and assemble it into executable modules will be pleased. Those of you who have no interest in assembler code and the challenge of ASM, will probably consider the five pages of code a waste of newsletter space. Please let us have your comment.

We have presented Basic09 and 'C' programme listings on a number of occasions in the hope that you will take the time to type them in and then get the programme to run. This is a great teacher, give it a go if you have not already tried.

OCN - FIDO

We have at last been able to arrange access (again) to the OS-9 ECHO through the worldwide FIDO network. This now keeps us up to date with the OS-9 Community Network, OCN, via the messages emanating largely from USA and Canada. Under this new arrangement the OS-9 Echo is brought in to Australia (updated) once per week. Whilst this does result in some delays in replies it will work out to be considerably cheaper than the previous arrangement of daily updates which ran into \$40 per month. We will be required to pay only for actual call (phone) costs which we expect will be paid from the National Usergroup Funds.

The OCN forum covers all sorts of OS-9 topics mainly around the CoCo3 6809 / 6309 Level II OS-9 with many interesting questions, answers and general comment. We download these messages in QWK (LHA compressed)

format and then read them offline. A PD programme "SCRIBE" is an offline message reader for the CoCo Level II OS-9 which is available from our library. So, if you are interested, our librarian would be able to send SCRIBE plus some of the .QWK Fido message files. To give you some idea of the volume - I did not logon to the Brisbane BBS for about a month, maybe more. When I did, I was faced with over 1200 new messages which I packed and downloaded in a QWK packet - about 40 minutes at 2400 baud, then several hours to read them all. I tell a lie, I did not read them all.

Just send your request to our librarian, Rod Holden, (address on the front cover) for the "Scribe" archive and some of the Fido QWK packets. If you make it easy for him by sending formatted disks, two or so, (too many is better than not enough) then you will get a quick reply. Oh yes, don't forget to include return postage stamps, a self addressed label, a re-useable mailer, and a couple of dollars for the copy fee. You will have fun reading the messages. We could even send replies or comments on your behalf.

INTERNET - LISTSERVER

Well if that is not enough, we now also have access to the worldwide Internet System or to be precise, one of our executive members in Brisbane has arranged personal access, and I have made application for access. One of our Melbourne members that I know of also has access, and he has been most helpful in obtaining information and files.

This system is a network of University UNIX computers which allows message and file transfers between University sites worldwide. The OS-9 and OSK material available is at least comprehensive. We also understand that this system allows reasonably priced access to other services such as DELPHI, provided you have a Delphi account, which I do.

IN SUMMARY

We now have access to available OS-9 OSK and OS9000 on a worldwide basis to a greater extent than we have had before and in the coming months we plan to bring you more of this information. Cheers, Gordon.

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6809 OS9 System Utilities
From the PD Library
by Ron Lamardo

CONTINUED FROM AUGUST EDITION :-

```

        nam   Save
        ttl   Enhanced save command by Ron Lamardo
        ifpl
        use   /dd/defs/os9defs
        endc
typelang set prgrm+objct
attrev  set  reent+revision
revision set 1
        mod  Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname   fcs  /Save/
        fcb  1
path    rmb  1
attrs   rmb  1
xsave   rmb  2
        rmb  256
datend  equ  .
errmsg  fcc 'Error Saving : '
errsz   equ *-errmsg

start
lda #WRITE.+READ. set write mode
ldb #PEXEC.+PREAD.+EXEC.+WRITE.+READ.
stb <attrs save the attributes
ldb ,x get next char
cmpb #'+' do we want to append
bne save010 nope..skip this
leax 1,x point to next char
os9 I$Open open a path to it
bcs save030 check any error
pshs u,x save regs
ldb #SS.Size get file size
os9 I$GetStt
os9 I$Seek seek to end
bcs save070 exit on error
bra save020 skip this

save010
cmpb #'-' do we want overwrite
bne save040 no..create the file
leax 1,x point past -
os9 I$Open open the file
bcs save030 check any error
pshs u,x save regs
ldx #0 make the size zero
tfr x,u

save020
ldb #SS.Size set the file size

os9 I$SetStt
puls u,x restore registers
bra save050 continue

save030
cmpb #E$PNF was it path name not found ?
beq save040 yes..go create it
orcc #1 else set carry bit
bra exit exit with error

save040
ldb <attrs get attributes
os9 I$Create create new output file
bcs exit exit on error

save050
sta <path save the path number
bsr skipblnk skip blanks

save060
stx <xsave save current name
clra any type/module
os9 F$Link attempt link
bcs save070 error
leax ,u point to module start
ldy 2,x get module size
lda <path get path # of file
os9 I$Write write it out
pshs b,cc save error
os9 F$Unlink unlink module
puls b,cc restore error
bcs save070 error
ldx <xsave get current name
os9 F$PrsNam point to end of name
tfr y,x next name into x
bsr skipblnk point past blanks
bra save060 save next module

save070
pshs b,cc save error
lda <path get the path
os9 I$Close close the path
leax errmsg,pcr get address of error message
ldy #errsz get size off error message
lda #2 std error path
os9 I$Write send it
bcs save080 if error..dont print rest
ldx <xsave get start of module in error
ldy #200 max size to send
lda #2 std error path
os9 I$WritLn send it

save080
puls b,cc
bra exit exit with error
```

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```

skipblnk
lda ,x+ get next character
cmpa #', was it a comma
beq skipblnk
cmpa # $20 was it a space
beq skipblnk
cmpa # $0d was it a <cr>
beq clrexit yes..done
leax -1,x back up and point to char
rts start else get next module

clrexit clrb
exit os9 F$exit

emod
equ *

```

```

nam Merge
ttl Enhanced file merger by Ron Lammardo

ifpl
use /dd/defs/os9defs
endc

tylg set Prgrm+Objct
atrv set ReEnt+rev
rev set $01
mod eom,name,tylg,atrv,start,size

path rmb 1
zflag rmb 1
xsave rmb 2
nextfile rmb 2
bufsz rmb 2
inbuff rmb 200
buffer rmb 2496
size equ .

name equ *
fcs /Merge/
fcb 1

errmsg
fcc 'Error Merging : '
errsz equ *-errmsg

start equ *
clr <zflag clear z option flag
pshs u save data area start
stx <xsave save param start
stx <nextfile save next file address
tfr x,d xfer param area start
subd # $0100+buffer back off for stack + data area
subd ,s++ subtract data area start
std <bufsz save buffersize
ldx <xsave get param line start
ldd ,x get first two chars
andb # $df make 2nd char upper case
cmpd #" -Z do we want z option set
bne merge030 nope...get first module name
inc <zflag else set z flag

merge010
leax inbuff,u point to input buffer
stx <xsave save module name address
clra std input path
ldy #200 max chars to read
os9 I$ReadLn read a line
bcc merge030 no error..skip this
cmpb #E$Eof was it end of file ?
bcs merge100 no..go print the error
bra merge090 else exit without error

merge020
ldx <nextfile get address of next file name

merge030
lda ,x+ get next char from line
cmpa # $20 was it a space
beq merge030 yes..skip it
cmpa #', was it a comma
beq merge030 yes..skip it
leax -$01,x else back up to pint to char
cmpa # $0d was ir a <cr>
bne merge035 no...do the merge
tst <zflag are we reading from std in ?
bne merge010 yes...go get next one
bra merge090 else we're done

merge035
stx <xsave save name start for error printing

merge040
lda #READ. read attribute
os9 I$Open open the file
bcs merge070 exit on error
sta <path save path number
stx <nextfile save next file name

merge050
lda <path get path number
ldy <bufsz get buffer size
leax buffer,u get vuffer start
os9 I$Read read some from path
bcs merge060 go see if error was end of file
lda # $01 std out

```

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```
os9 I$Write write it
bcc merge050 no error..loop back for more read
bra merge070 else exit with error
```

```
merge060
cmpb #B$EOF was it end of file ?
bne merge070 nope...set error & exit
lda <path else get input path number
os9 I$Close & close the file
bcs merge070 error?? go print it
tst <zflag are we getting files from std in ?
bne merge010 yes..go do it
bra merge020 else go get next from param line
```

```
merge070
pshs b save error message
leax errmsg,pcr get address of error message
ldy #errsz get size of error message
lda #2 stdd error path
```

```
os9 I$Write write ther error
bcs merge080 exit on error
ldx <xsave get error file name
ldy #200 max chars to send
os9 I$WritLn write it out
```

```
merge080
puls b restore error
coma set carry bit
bra merge100 exit the program
```

```
merge090
clrb clear any error codes
```

```
merge100
os9 F$Exit exit program
```

```
emod
eom equ *
```

```
nam Del
ttl Enhanced del command by Ron Lammardo
ifpl
use /dd/defs/os9defs
endc
typelang set prgrm+objct
attrev set reent+revision
revision set 1
mod Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname fcs /Del/
fcb 1
attrs rmb 1
xsave rmb 2
rmb 256
datend equ .
errmsg
fcc 'Error Deleting :'
```

```
errsz equ *-errmsg
start
lda #READ. get file attribute
sta <attrs save it
```

```
del010
lda ,x+ get next char
cmpa #'- was it a minus ?
beq del060 yes..go check for next char a 'x'
leax -1,x else back up one character
pshs x save line pointer
```

```
del020
lda ,x+ get next char
cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
```

```
beq del030 yes..skip this
cmpa #'- was it a '-' ?
bne del020 no..check next char
bsr del040 check next char for 'x'
lda #$0d get a <cr>
sta -2,x and replace the -x
```

```
del030
puls x restore line pointer
bra del070 go do the deletes
```

```
del040
lda ,x+ get next char
eora #'X check if its an x
anda #$df make it upper case
bne del050 exit on error
lda #EXEC. get exec attr for exec dir search
sta <attrs and save it
rts
```

```
del050
leax -2,x back up to point to '-'
stx <xsave save line pointer
comb set carry
ldb #187 illegal argument error
bra del090 go print the error
```

```
del060
bsr del040 check if next char a 'x'
```

```
del070
stx <xsave save file name start
lda <attrs get file attributes
```

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```
os9 I$DeletX delete the file
bcs del090 exit on error

del080
lda ,x+ get next character
cmpa #', was it a comma
beq del080
cmpa #$20 was it a space
beq del080
cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
beq clrexit yes..done
leax -1,x back up and point to char
bra del070 loop back for next file

del090
pshs b,cc save message
leax errmsg,pcr get address of error message
ldy #errsz get size off error message

lda #2 std error path
os9 I$Write send it
bcs dell00 if error..dont print rest
ldx <xsave get start of module in error
ldy #200 max size to send
lda #2 std error path
os9 I$WritLn send it

dell00
puls b,cc
bra exit exit with error

clrexit clrb
exit os9 F$exit

emod
eom equ *
```

```
nam Makdir
ttl Enhanced Makdir command by Ron
Lamcardo
ifpl
use /dd/defs/os9defs
endc
typelang set prgrm+objct
attrev set reent+revision
revision set 1
mod Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname fcs /Makdir/
fcb 1
xsave rmb 2
rmb 256
datend equ .
errmsg
fcc 'Error Making Dir :'
errsz equ *-errmsg

start
stx <xsave save start of name
ldb #DIR.+PEXEC.+PWRIT.+PREAD.+EXEC.+UPDAT.
attributes
os9 I$MakDir try making directory
bcs makdr020 if error...go print it

makdr010
lda ,x+ get next character
cmpa #', was it a comma
beq makdr010
cmpa #$20 was it a space
beq makdr010
cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
beq clrexit yes..done
leax -1,x back up and point to char
bra start else get next module

makdr020
pshs b,cc save message
leax errmsg,pcr get address of error message
ldy #errsz get size off error message
lda #2 std error path
os9 I$Write send it
bcs makdr030 if error..dont print rest
ldx <xsave get start of module in error
ldy #200 max size to send
lda #2 std error path
os9 I$WritLn send it

makdr030
puls b,cc
bra exit exit with error

clrexit clrb
exit os9 F$exit

emod
eom equ *
```

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The National OS9 Usergroup
(07)-200-9870
300/1200/2400 baud.
20:00 to 22:30 HRS.(AEST)
(8N1)

Co-ordinator: Bob Devries (07)-278-7209
Sysop: Rod Holden

This is (RiBBS).... A Tandy Coco Based BBS program.
This BBS is accessible to Usergroup Members ONLY!
Feel free to look around , and test out the options.

OS9 for Ever !!!!

Hi, this is your Sysop once again letting you know what type of software is available. Bob Devries uploaded a program called LS.ar which has 3 files archived. The 3 files are Ls, Ls.doc and a patch for grfint. I have had the program running and believe that it is suited to individual tastes, so here is the document for LS, by the way it is different from the previous LS program.

NAME

ls - get a directory

SYNOPSIS

ls [[-[[bchilrst<dfa><icre>e<ntacd>]]] [fn]]

...

DESCRIPTION

ls prints a formatted listing of the files in the named directories, or of those in '.' if no pathnames are specified. Any options following the option flag ('-') toggle the state of the option (except for d, f, a, and e, which I'll get to later), so changing the defaults in the source header 'lsect.h' will not require a change in the option parser. Pathnames are executed on as they appear, so an option must precede a pathname to have an effect on it.

The options include:

-b Turn the directory, date and time banner on.

-c Combine directories and files (avoids long file descriptor searches).

-h Show hidden files. Because OS9 does not allow filenames to begin with '.', ls defines filenames that _end_in '.' as hidden files. Thus, . and .. remain hidden.

-i Turns off indenting of subdirectories when executing a recursive directory.

-l Same as -ae, causes all entries to be listed in a 'dir e' format.

-r Causes ls to display directories of subdirectories recursively.

-t Displays title headings over file, directory, and (l)ong sections.

-u Causes wildcards to be case-sensitive.

-p Shows directories before files.

-w# Makes ls fit its rows to the specified width. If not specified, ls will attempt to determine the window width with a getstat call. If that is not available, ls will use 80 as a default.

-d, -f, and -a Should be followed with 'i', 'c', 'r', or 'e'. i tells ls to ignore entries (not displayed).

c displays entries in a vertical column.

r displays entries in "best-fit" rows.

e displays entires one per line with extended info. Each of the above specifiers affects directories if it is preceded with a d, files if with an f, or both directories and files if preceded with an a.

-e Indicates the user's preferred mode of

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emphasis. It should be followed with one of these:
n No emphasis. For TTY, VDG, or undefined displays.

t CoCo text mode. Utilizes underlining and inverse video.

c CoCo colors. Defaults are red, yellow, and the original screen colors. See 'BUGS'. -ec is the default mode.

a Ansi mode. Great for modem users calling with RSDOS or MSDOS terminals, uses underline and reverse video.

d DMP mode. Perfect for making long, legible recursive directories on Tandy DMP (mine is a 105) printers. Uses bold and underline.

ls assumes anything not beginning with '-' is a pathname. If no pathnames are specified, ls will display a directory of '.'. If a pathname is not a directory in itself, ls will open the parent directory of the pathname and use the last entity in the pathname as a search mask. This allows users to obtain listings of single filenames (to determine their presence?) as in the UNIX version.

More usefully, the mask may contain the wildcards ? and *. (Ranges ([])'s are not supported. The Krieder PATMATCH() function is used.) If you are using it, be sure to turn off Shell+'s wildcards with a preceding colon.

EXAMPLES

ls -r /dd will produce an indented map of your entire default disk. (Very useful for cleaning up or just browsing your hard drive)

ls -c will whip out quick listings faster than the default. -c makes ls avoid opening the disk in raw mode to obtain each file's descriptor to determine whether it is a file or subdirectory.

ls -bedr /dd/usr >/p will make a hardcopy map of your default drive on your DMP printer, complete with a location, date, and time stamp at the top.

ls -aciren /dd >tmp will produce a file containing the names of every (non-hidden) file on your disk, one to a line, suitable for standard input into another utility.

SEE ALSO

Uh, "dir"? :-) Hopefully ls will replace dir

in _your_ toolbox. The only drawback to it is its length: l2K+

DIAGNOSTICS

ls will give you a usage screen if you try to use an unidentified option. I think -v is one of the few unused characters. :-) Other error messages are self explanatory. I hope I always returned ERROR #001 on any error - that makes sure subsequent commands on a shell command line aren't executed in an untimely fashion. :-)

The extended listing of ls is hard to read unless you include the -t option, which will automatically head columns of extended information with a set of descriptive titles. Size appears twice, first in hexadecimal, second in decimal.

BUGS

Recursion and wildcards don't mix.

Emphasis mode 'c' obtains the default colors with the system call _gs_fbrg(). The foreground color returned from that call is the actual current foreground color - mod 4. If you are using colors 0 - 3, you'll never have a problem, but I suggest you install the accompanying patch to GrfInt by typing modpatch < grfint.patch. Eddie Kuns translated the patch from the original patch to WindInt, which I don't have a copy of.

AUTHOR

Jon R. Howell
185 Norton
Sherwood, OR 97140

DELPHI: PHEON

Internet: jonh@tekgen.BV.TEK.COM

UUCP: ..!tektronix!tekgen!jonh

The 40 track 5 1/4 drive has now been installed for those members who have only 40 track drives. I will be placing 68000 software on the BBS in the near future, I will let you know in the next news letter. See you in the bit stream, Happy OS9-ing.

Sysop

Rod Holden

Converting RSDOS BASIC programmes

It looks like I need to discuss the conversion of BASIC programmes from Disk Basic to Basic09. I believe that these tools are required to make this possible:

The original BASIC programme, saved in ASCII
i.e. SAVE "filename",A

The Disk Basic programme 'VARMAP', which will list all variables, GOTOs etc.

The OS9 programme 'RSDOS', available from our PD library, to read the programme from your Disk Basic disk, onto an OS9 disk.

A text editor in OS9, such as VED, TSEDIT, ED.

A printed copy of your programme.

A number of different highlighting pens.

First, save an ASCII copy of your programme. This is necessary to use 'VARMAP', and also later to import it into OS9.

Next, LLIST a copy of your programme, and then run VARMAP, which will give you a listing, on paper, of all the variables used, and all the subroutines, and GOTO lines.

Boot OS9, and run the 'RSDOS' programme, like this:

```
rdsos -get /dl program.bas /r0/program.bas
```

I strongly suggest that you start with a SMALL programme, to get the feel of it.

Load your BASIC programme into the text editor, and, at the top, insert the line:

```
PROCEDURE programme_name
```

The above 'programme_name' can be any legal OS9 filename, i.e. up to 29 characters, no spaces, or other punctuation marks, except underscore. Save this file.

If you were to load this file into Basic09 now, it would load it, but probably give you a string of errors. This is normal. I will now give some more conversion hints.

VARIABLES:

Unlike Disk BASIC, Basic09 requires that all variables are DIMensioned at the start of the programme, if this not done, all numeric variables will be considered as floating point, and all strings will be 32 characters in length.

So, add lines to your programme, after the line that reads 'PROCEDURE....', that will DIM the variables used in your programme.

```
DIM x,y:INTEGER  
DIM a$:STRING[50]  
DIM amount:REAL
```

These are just examples. Basic09 does NOT require the \$ sign to be used with string variables, but it will not hurt to use them.

INPUT and OUTPUT

Except when printing to the current window, and reading from the keyboard, Basic09 requires that a path be opened to a device before you use it. Unlike Disk BASIC, the path to the printer, is not 'ALWAYS THERE'. So if a line reads:

```
PRINT #-2,"hello world"
```

You'll need to open the printer path somewhere before that line, like this:

```
DIM printer:BYTE  
OPEN #printer,"/p":WRITE
```

It is beyond the scope of this article to change the printer baud rate 'on the fly', (although it can be done), this should have been done in your startup script.

Now every line that reads 'PRINT #-2,' may be changed to 'PRINT #printer,'. The actual value of the BYTE variable 'printer' is not important, it is a path number received from OS9 which will send characters to the printer.

Similarly with disk files. When a line reads:

```
OPEN "I",#1,"infile"
```

it will be changed to:

```
OPEN #inpath,"infile":READ
```

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for writing files:

```
OPEN "O",#1,"outfile"
```

becomes:

```
CREATE #outpath,"outfile":WRITE
```

or if the file already exists:

```
OPEN #outpath,"outfile":WRITE
```

If you want a random access (read or write) file:

```
OPEN "R", #1,"ranfile"
```

becomes:

```
CREATE #ranpath,"ranfile":UPDATE
```

or if it already exists:

```
OPEN #ranpath,"ranfile":UPDATE
```

You cannot, of course, read from, or write to a cassette from OS9.

Other paths may be written to as well, such as /T2, /W6 (provided the window is INIZ'ed) /NIL, /PIPE. These are just some examples.

Next time I'll continue with some loop commands.

Bob Devries

Atlanta CoCoFest Report By Joel Hegberg received via Internet

Subject: Atlanta CoCofest4

Just flew back in from the Atlanta fest! That was seriously the best Atlanta fest I've been to yet! And one of the best fests overall! A fantastic time was had by all, lots of neat new stuff to see and buy! I'd tell more, but I went to bed at the hotel this morning with no sleep last night, at 5am, then woke up at 10am and have been going since (it's 11:30pm now), so I'm falling asleep at the keyboard here. Lots of great people to meet there, like Bob Van Der Poel, Ed Gresik, Boisy Pitre, James Jones, Carl Boll, Allen Huffman, Terry Todd, Mark Griffith, Bill Dickhaus, Colin McKay, Ken Scales, Paul Fitch, John Baer, Tim Johns (Hi, Tim!), and so many many more I cannot bring to mention but will try... Eddie Kuns, Scott Gripenrog, Paul Jerkatis, Brian White, Al Dekok, Al Dages, Howard Luckey, Kevin Peace, Chris Hawks and his lovely wife Nancy, the adventure survivors (sorry! Forgot their names!), Tony Podrazza and the rest of the Glenside CoCo Club crew, Tony Distefano (eh, you hoser?), and many many more! I finally got to put faces with those names!

Lots of new software for all computers, lots of new computers for all users, and lots of new users for the cocofest! So, we have to have another new cocofest next year for some more new software to complete the cycle! :)

Allen Huffman will be compiling a complete fest

report (as dictated by tradition) so I'll leave the full accounting to him!

Now, where's my bed... (no sleep for the past couple days!!)

-- Joel.

Part Two:

I thought I would briefly take the time to list some of the new goodies I saw at the fest in Atlanta the past two days...

Graphical adventure game of last years Atlanta fest... digitized pictures of the last fest make this adventure game great! Available for OS-9/CoCo and OSk/MM1.

TOWEL... a great menu-driven disk utility for easy copying, deleting, moving, making, and zillion other things with disk files... very slick. Available for OS-9/CoCo and being ported to OSk/MM1.

GCal... a Graphical Calendar program by Bill... sorry I forgot his last name! He always works with IMS or BlackHawk enterprises for MM/1 sales. The program, then, is for the MM/1.

Calculator... a free desktop calculator was given away for MM/1 K-Windows.

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Bible concordance... a very very fast and slick bible concordance was being sold for OSK... a coco/OS-9 release date was set for two weeks.

RS-DOS term program for OS-9 codes! If you want to access an OS-9 BBS or just access another OS-9 computer from the serial port, but still get OS-9 codes (colors, overlay windows, underlining, reverse video, pulldown menus, etc) from RS-DOS, there was a great program for RS-DOS that even ran on a tape (non-disk) system to emulate all those nice OS-9 codes!

MM/1 340 UPGRADE... makes the MM/1 really fly! This was an amazing thing to see... the graphics on the MM/1 were very very fast! Almost a must for MM/1 owners.

SpeedDisk - OSK (and maybe CoCo OS-9??) disk defragmenter. Really speeds up disk access for those with hard disks that are experiencing problematic fragmentation!

GNOP... (PONG spelled backwards!) Chris Hawks of HawkSoft wrote this neat little program using MM/1 hardware scrolling (!!) for a neat pong game where the ball stays stationary while the screen moves around the ball, and you have to line up the paddle to hit the ball!

KVed... a wonderful and dazzling front-end for MM/1 version of VED! Buttons and stuff make editing text files a delightful process!

Alan Dekok's Smash game drew much interest, as it ran with full arcade quality under CoCo OS-9! Amazing speed and graphics!

There were lots of other programs that I'm confident

I've forgotten, but you can see there were lots and lots of new programs for users of many systems!

Now, a few rumours that reached my ear... A new OSTerm for MM/1 was released to a few alpha testers who already owned TASCOS... lots of neat buttons make the new screen look wonderful.

At Ed Gresik's booth, a fax display program was running under GWindows. The fax was received under OS-9 and a K-Windows viewer was also shown to a few select people. The fax project is still said to be under wraps, but printouts on many printers were shown, including Epson, Tandy, IBM, and HP Laser! (CoCo rumor for above... fax possibly on the CoCo, too...)

XWindows for CoCo3 OS-9! Can it be done? Someone's working on it, so we may soon see...

Truetype fonts on the MM/1? Possibly!

How about an MM/1 screen button designer? This writes out source that (in C) will generate screen buttons and handle them for you! Lots of other gadgets (like sliders, etc) are also handled as well!

A termcap version of OSTerm? Work could start soon.

A termcap version of Write-Right? Work has already begun.

MM/2! 68030 upgrade board which turns the MM/1 into a power house!! Allegedly, there was one at the fest (prototype)...

Ok, I am at a loss for more rumours, although there are more, so I'll leave the rest for others to try and fill in!

-- Joel.

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InterNet
by Bob Devries
bob@splat.aarnet.edu.au

Recently, I saw an advert from a local company, selling access to what they called 'PUBLIC ACCESS UNIX'. For A\$80.00 a year, I now have access, via modem to a SUN work station, which is connected to AARNET, and through that to InterNet. InterNet and AARNET are networks of university computers connected to each other via high-speed modems (permanently). AARNET, is the Australian section of this world-wide network.

This network has provided me with access to a vast amount of PD software both OS9/68000, and OS9/6809 (yes, even CoCo programmes!) at university computer sites such as PRINCETON, NJ; WASHINGTON; and also sites in Japan, Switzerland, and a host of others, that I have not had time to try.

While not all sites have OS9 software, All of them have something of interest, and then there are also the mail systems. At the PRINCETON site, there is a mail server, which handles messages of interest to CoCo, MML etc. users. There are some very well read and respected OS9 programmers who frequent the COCO LIST, as it is called, people like Boisy Pitre (who works for MicroWare, and is currently guiding the US OS9 usergroup through its troubles), Mike Knudsen,

who wrote 'UltiMusE III', Allen Huffman, who runs Sub-Etha software in Texas, to name but a few. Connections can also be made to both Compuserve, and Delphi, and to FidoNET.

While the message system is not 'real-time', that is, I can't interactively 'chat' to other users, message turn-around is very fast. If I send a message to the PRINCETON server, (which of course is a programme, and 'listens' all the time) I can get a response within 2 minutes. Of course if the person I want send mail to only reads his mail once a week (and that happens), it will be very slow.

If all this sounds like something you're interested in, the facilities are available here in Brisbane, and, I believe, are also available in Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide. For more information, contact:

David Tucker
301 Park Ridge Road
PARK RIDGE Q. 4125

PH: 018 071 999

Bob Devries

STOP PRESS

A new CoCo/OS9/OSK magazine is being produced in the States. Published by Mark Griftith, Editor - Barbara Ann Griffith, Contributing writers - Alan DeKok, Paul Fitch, Robert Gault, Ed Gresick, Mark Griffith, Shaun Marolf and Boisy Pitre.

The August 1993 edition which was sent to me as a sample was "The NoName Magazine", from the September edition it now has a name "METAMORPHOSIS".

August is a black and white, twenty-two page very good quality production containing very interesting articles and ads.

A one year subscription comprising twelve editions would cost US\$60 air mailed to Australia.

Mark Griffith will give us permission to make copies of a master each month which will reduce the costs considerably. We are not sure of the price Mark would ask for each copy we make but it will be largely influenced by the volume.

If you are interested, please let me know so that we can set up a deal. The National OS9 Usergroup would handle this arrangement at cost.

ED, Gordon Bentzen.